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To: Jennifer Manner, FCC Deputy Bureau Chief

From: Melodie Mayberry-Stewart, NYS Chief Information Officer / Director of OFT 

Date: July 19, 2010

Re: 700MHz FCC Waiver Quarterly Status Report

I. Planning

Expected timing for development and issuance of any RFI/RFP

The timing for issuing a RFI/RFP is dependent on receiving funding from NTIA under the BTOP grant. The State has been in regular communication with New York City regarding shared network cores and other elements of a fully interoperable network. Additionally, the State has determined that there are no narrowband licenses requiring relocation.

II. Funding

New York State submitted a BTOP Round 2 grant application, proposing to deploy a 700 MHz wireless broadband network for public safety use to 57 counties outside of New York City for state and local government use. The system design will use the emerging Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology standard for the mobile terrestrial network infrastructure deployed using public safety's 700 MHz wireless broadband spectrum. The network will support a variety of applications which public safety users can access during normal and emergency field operations. Applications include streaming video, digital imaging, automatic vehicle location, computer aided dispatching, e-mail, mapping/GIS, remote database access, report management system access, text messaging, telemetry/remote diagnostics, and web access.

III. Deployment

One of the key benefits of expanding broadband services throughout New York State is improved public safety communications. Fire, police, and other safety officials must be able to communicate seamlessly and reliably with one another to successfully respond to emergencies. New broadband applications and technologies are transforming emergency response. For example, broadband can enable first responders to view the layout of a burning building before entering it or transmit critical video images from an accident scene.

The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), on behalf of 57 counties outside of New York City, and New York State Chief Information Officer and Office for Technology (CIO/OFT), have entered into a partnership to develop and expand New York's capacity and capability to support emerging trends and basic communication requirements of our state's first responders. To accomplish this goal New York State applied for a federal grant that leverages recently approved 700MHz

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broadband spectrum, expands existing state-owned broadband networks, and strengthens interoperability among all counties, New York City, and neighboring states.

The NYS Public Safety Interoperability Project proposes to deploy a 700MHz wireless broadband network for public safety use across 57 counties in New York State. When fully deployed, the network will provide wireless broadband data coverage to approximately 178,000 state and local emergency responders in 3,640 local, state and federal public safety entities. New York State and NYSAC are amenable to executing the statewide project in a phased approach. Recognizing that this grant application exceeds the maximum award amount specified by the NTIA, and that the size of the project representing 57 counties is extensive, moving the LTE design and build out portions of the project ahead at different paces can be discussed, so long as the status of the State's conditional FCC waiver is maintained.

The New York State project will employ Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology standard for mobile terrestrial networks using public safety's 700MHz wireless broadband spectrum made available through the waiver granted by the FCC. The project will leverage the existing state-owned "NYeNet" fiber optic network that runs throughout the state from Long Island to the Canadian border, and west to Buffalo, to provide middle mile broadband service. With an expanded NYeNet, and existing county infrastructures, we are proposing efficient low-cost network construction to build last mile broadband service for their public safety users. The NYeNet is key to the project's success and integral to achieving speed to market. In addition, the network will be linked by three redundant and fully integrated network cores to provide necessary redundancy.

When complete, the network will support a variety of applications which public safety users can access during normal and emergency field operations. Applications include streaming video, digital imaging, automatic vehicle location, computer aided dispatching, e-mail, mapping/GIS, remote database access, report management system access, text messaging, telemetry/remote diagnostics, and web access. Central to the proposed solution is inter-county roaming support so authorized public safety users can successfully roam the network within any county participating in the broadband deployment. One of the key benefits of expanding broadband services throughout New York State is improved public safety communications. Fire, police, and other safety officials must be able to communicate seamlessly and reliably with one another to successfully respond to emergencies. New broadband applications and technologies are transforming emergency response. For example, broadband can enable first responders to view the layout of a burning building before entering it or transmit critical video images from an accident scene.

The State has not purchased any equipment related to this network to date. The State expects the proposed users to be State and local public safety entities, including law enforcement, fire and emergency services.

There are numerous existing sites in the proposed project area, including both government and commercially owned towers. While the State expects that some areas of the state will require new sites, the exact number of new and existing sites has not been determined at this time and will be dependent on the final system design. The timing for network construction and deployment is dependent on receiving funding from NTIA under the BTOP grant. All FCC eligible public safety entities will be afforded the opportunity to use the network.

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By adopting a common technological standard with full inter-county roaming capability, data and video interoperability will be immediately achieved, eliminating the emergence of disparate systems as is currently seen with land mobile radio (LMR) systems across the state. This approach will lead to significant long-term cost savings for county and state government since widely used technological standards result in lower cost subscriber devices and network components.

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